

Application No.: 10/735,521
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT
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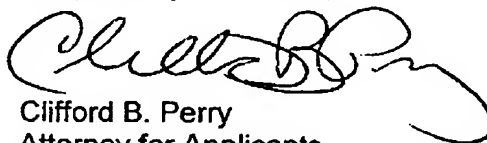
Remarks

Originally filed claims 1-50 are now canceled. New claims presented March 24, 2005 are now re-numbered 51-161. Claim 133 has been amended to recite the feature that the power levels of one or more of the N signals may be varied. Claim 133 is directed to variably adjusting the level of signals propagating through the distribution system using variable gain amplifiers. As primarily illustrated in Figs. 17a-d and corresponding specification sections, the variable gain amplifiers are operable to apply gain and/or attenuation along the signal path at any location. Claims 51, 76, 87, 108, 117, 136, 137 and 161 have been amended to include the limitation that at least a portion of the crosspoint switch, or at least a portion of one or more of the band translation devices includes a differential signal path. Exemplary embodiments of this feature are presented in Figs. 10 and 12-14 and corresponding paragraphs, including paragraph 142. No new matter has been introduced.

Conclusion

The Applicants submit that the presently pending claims 51-161 are patentable over the prior art and accordingly request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that an interview would expedite prosecution of the case, a telephone call or e-mail to the Applicants' representative is invited indicating when a return call would be most convenient.

Respectfully submitted,



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